



8 April 2006



Good Neighbor English Camp

1. More than 3 years ago, United States Forces Korea started the Good Neighbor Program. Its goal was to strengthen our Republic of Korea – United States Alliance by improving public understanding and appreciation of the USFK mission. Since that time, our service members and their families have done an outstanding job engaging a wide variety of ROK government leaders, media, businesses, universities, schools, and military in a multitude of activities and programs.
2. This past week we concluded an exceptional program, the "Good Neighbor English Camp". From April 4-8, one hundred and twenty Korean 10th grade students participated in Good Neighbor English Camps in Seoul, Osan and Daegu. Our student guests were given an opportunity to see United States Forces Korea at its best – from the professional airmen and air defenders at Osan Air Base, to the warriors at Camp Casey, to the guardians at the Joint Security Area. The Korean teens who stayed at Yongsan Garrison had an opportunity to spend time with the students of Seoul American High School, the musicians of the 8th Army Band, the medical professionals of 18th MEDCOM and the broadcasters of the American Forces Network. These students were able to meet and talk to Americans from all walks of life, serving in a variety of occupations. The result was a better understanding of the mission and purpose of USFK and a greater appreciation for the dedication of U.S. service members, civilians, contractors and their families. I want to thank all of our unit sponsors and service members for being such Good Neighbors to our Korean friends. Many of you were exceptionally generous with your time and knowledge, answering questions and providing information about your chosen career fields, as well as valuable insights into life within the American military. I particularly want to thank the host families who opened their homes and hearts to the Korean high school students. Your warmth and generosity will have a lasting influence on the next generation of Korean citizens and leaders.
3. Next month, USFK will celebrate "Good Neighbor Month." I encourage all service members, civilians, contractors and family members to actively participate in Good Neighbor programs and activities. Each interaction can be an opportunity for a positive experience. Seek out opportunities to get out, meet our wonderful hosts, and enjoy your time in the Republic of Korea. Your participation will help guarantee the future success of peace and prosperity on the peninsula and strengthen a lasting friendship.

We Go Together!

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commander

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